the WATER TAP
WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER

Washington State Department of Health
Environmental Health Programs

Issue 48 • March 2002

EPA Tightens Arsenic Standard

10 ppb standard could affect some Washington water systems

Since ancient times, the element arsenic and its compounds have been used as poisons, in pesticides, and even as medicines.

Most water system operators are aware that arsenic is part of the geology here in Washington—especially in the Puget Sound area, where it is very common.

Arsenic occurs naturally in the earth's crust. When rocks, minerals, and soil erode, they can release arsenic into water supplies. There are also industrial sources of arsenic pollution, such as widespread soil contamination from smelters in Ruston and Everett. This type of industrial pollution, however, rarely affects drinking water, because the arsenic does not travel downward through the soil very quickly, tending to remain near the surface for hundreds or thousands of years.

Serious long-term health effects

Medical research has shown that arsenic exposure has long-term effects on health. Arsenic has been found to contribute to a higher incidence of bladder cancer, lung cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and other health problems.

In both March 1999 and September 2001, the National Research Council issued reports concluding that the then current Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic of 50 parts per billion (ppb) did not protect public health and that the MCL must be reduced.

The Environmental Protection Agency has set a new standard of 10 ppb to reduce the risk of health effects from long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water. The agency wants all public water systems to comply with the new standard by January 2006.

A potential for increased costs

Until now, most water systems in Washington have been in compliance with the 50 ppb arsenic standard, but the 10 ppb standard will require some systems to modify their operations, and some of those modifications could be expensive.

"There's no question that this increased water safety comes at a cost," said Division of Drinking Water Director Gregg Grunenfelder. "The new arsenic standard is expected to be among the most costly of new EPA rules to implement. We are here to help systems comply with this new standard. The challenge will be how to address very real concerns from the public, especially those who are water customers of systems that have monitored arsenic levels above the new standard."

(continued on page 3)

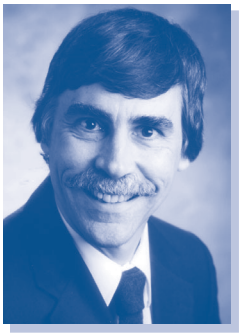
A new Water Tap feature: Especially for small systems

Beginning with this issue (pages 10-12) we are devoting a section of the newsletter exclusively to articles of particular interest to small system owners and operators.

Inside This Issue

The Director's Column

by Gregg Grunenfelder



The Year Ahead

The Division of Drinking Water's mission is to protect the health of people in Washington State by assuring safe and reliable drinking water. We will focus on several important topics in 2002 to further that mission:

Emergency prevention and response

A top priority for the division is preventing and responding to emergency situations, and responsibly addressing situations in which drinking water has been determined to be unsafe.

In 2002 we will refine our Health Advisory process to ensure we are fully prepared to respond to emergency situations and assist communities. A main component of this effort is to integrate the new federal Public Notification Rule requirements into our state regulations and procedures.

In addition, we will focus attention on water system security and infrastructure protection. The topic of the moment, of course, is terrorist threats, but our preparation will also be applicable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts.

We will concentrate on providing information, tools, and training to public water supply providers on prevention/ protection strategies, emergency preparedness, and incident response.

Sanitary Surveys

Another high priority for the division is conducting sanitary surveys on Group A water systems. Division staff will work closely with local health jurisdictions and other qualified professionals to conduct surveys, document system status, and work with water system owners to correct deficiencies which may interfere with the long term provision of safe and reliable drinking water.

Operator Certification

We will focus significant attention on ensuring that water systems are operated by qualified and competent professionals. Efforts will include fully implementing our Operator Certification program and providing quality training opportunities to certified operators. This will involve several of the training providers and organizations throughout the state as we take full advantage of new funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Enforcement

We have begun to review and more fully develop our compliance strategy to hold water system owners/operators accountable for meeting the requirements of safe drinking water rules and regulations.

We will be developing and applying active enforcement tools on violations that most directly impact the health of communities served. We will also continue to develop and use other compliance tools for violations that have less immediate impact on public health.

Infrastructure Improvements and Funding

We will continue working to keep our Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program one of the top programs in the nation for providing low interest financing to communities in need. We will be working with many of you to update our state's needs assessment information, which we will submit to EPA as the basis for future DWSRF funding allocations.

Information Technology

We are looking forward to deploying our new SENTRY data system. Phase one should be done early this year, giving us much greater ability to store and process WFI and water quality information. Phase 2, scheduled for completion in mid 2003, will provide major improvements in data availability for purveyors and local health jurisdictions.

There are, of course, other programs and activities that we will be working on as well, but these are the main areas of focus for now. As always, we look forward to working closely with water system owners and operators, local health jurisdictions, and other drinking water professionals as we continue efforts to ensure safe and reliable drinking water for people in Washington State. Throughout 2002 you will hear more about these efforts as we progress.

(continued from EPA Standards - page 1)

Task force formed

To meet this challenge, the division has formed a task force that has begun work on technical, financial, policy, and health education issues related to the new arsenic standard. More information will be forthcoming from this group in the next few months regarding the division's efforts to help water systems comply with the new standard and address customer concerns.

Nationwide, nearly all of the water systems affected by this rule are small systems serving fewer than 10,000 people each. The Environmental Protection Agency plans to provide $20 million over the next two years for research and development of more cost-effective technologies to help small systems meet the 10 ppb standard. The agency will also work with small communities to maximize grants and loans.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) may be able to help systems move toward compliance with this new rule by offering low interest loans. DWSRF information is available at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/dwsrf.htm

Arsenic information from the Environmental Protection Agency is available at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Publications/EPA_arsenic_factsheet.htm

A map showing public water systems in Washington with historic arsenic levels above 10 ppb is available at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Images/arsenic-ab.jpg

Revisions to Chapter 246-290 WAC are Proceeding

Comment Period April 1-15; Public Hearings This Fall

The Division of Drinking Water is continuing work on developing state regulations to reflect Environmental Protection Agency rules.

Draft rules were prepared in December 2001. The official period for stakeholder comment on the draft rules is April 1-15, 2002. A copy of the draft will be available at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/regula.htm

The division will revise the proposed rules in May, in preparation for public hearings in October and final rule adoption in December.

The major subjects are:

Surface water treatment and disinfection by-products

These two rules will help protect the public from microbial contaminants and will help prevent the creation, through disinfection, of possible cancer-causing agents in water supplies.

Public Notification

This rule affects all Group A water systems—about 4,270 systems. The revisions establish three new "tiers" for public notification, with different time frames based on the nature of the health risks involved:

- Tier 1—Acute health concerns
- Tier 2—Chronic health concerns
- Tier 3—Reporting and monitoring requirements

Lead and Copper

This rule affects all community and NonTransient NonCommunity water systems—about 2,530 systems.

The changes will require systems to demonstrate "optimal corrosion control" and will simplify public education requirements.

Radionuclides

This rule affects all Group A community water systems—about 2,350 systems. It sets a new uranium MCL of 30 ug/L and changes some monitoring location requirements.

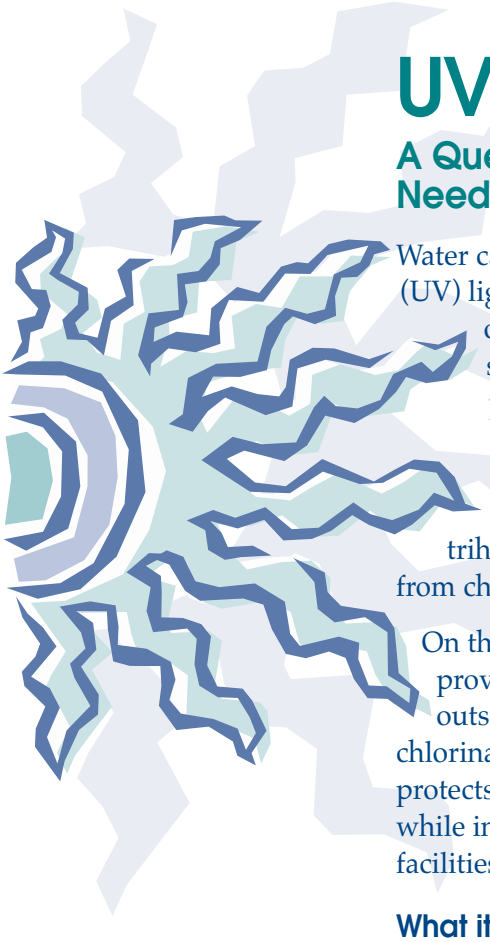
Filter Backwash Recycling

This rule affects about nine systems that recycle direct, conventional, or in-line filtration water. The purpose is to assess and change, where needed, recycle practices for improved contaminant control, particularly of microbial contaminants.

Variance and exemption

This rule affects all systems that may consider a request for a general variance due to source water quality, or in the case of small systems, affordability, or an exemption for an extension of time before a system must comply with standards.

For more information: Contact Theresa Phillips, 360-236-3147.



UV or Not UV?

A Question for Systems That Need to Disinfect

Water can be treated with ultraviolet (UV) light to kill disease-causing micro-organisms. The process has some potential advantages—it is particularly effective against *Cryptosporidium*, for example, and does not produce some of the by-products of concern like trihalomethanes that can result from chlorination.

On the other hand, UV treatment provides no residual disinfection outside the treatment plant. Unlike chlorination, it introduces nothing that protects water from contamination while in storage or distribution facilities.

What it is and how it works

Ultraviolet light occurs naturally in sunlight, and can also be produced using several types of commercially available lamps.

UV damages microorganisms' genetic material (DNA and RNA), making them unable to reproduce.

UV dosage is measured in milli-Joules per square centimeter (mJ/cm^2). The germ-killing range of wavelengths is 200 to 300 nanometers. (See sidebar on UV technical terms).

Current uses in drinking water

About 1000 public drinking water systems in the United States now use UV. Most of them are small, non-community ground water systems.

The City of Seattle is adding an ultraviolet treatment component to its Cedar River plant, in combination with ozone and chlorine, to provide a multi-barrier treatment system able to inactivate bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and other pathogens. UV may prove more effective for some pathogens, while ozone may be more effective for others.

About 1,500 small systems in Europe now use UV, plus about 50 larger systems that treat up to 40 million gallons per day. Germany and Austria have standardized testing and validation protocols for UV equipment.

Questions and limitations

Despite its pluses and current uses, UV treatment is no magic bullet, and regulatory agencies are still examining its applicability. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a draft several hundred page UV guidance document in the works. A 25-page UV chapter in EPA's 1999 *Alternative Disinfectants and Oxidants Guidance Manual* lists many factors that must be considered, including turbidity that shields organisms from the light, aging of lamps, fouling of quartz sleeves that enclose the lamps, and the need for standby power.

Because of the uncertainty about potential federal rule making, Division of Drinking Water staff must use the following disclaimer language in communications regarding the use of UV disinfection by any public water system:

> **"Please be advised that any UV system designed and constructed per the existing guidelines may be considered immediately inadequate if EPA promulgates any federal rule that requires higher fluence levels (doses) to effectively inactivate any organism of concern. This could require immediate redesign and construction of the UV treatment facilities, or added use of an alternate disinfectant, such as chlorination."**

Division of Drinking Water guidelines

The division's current guidelines on this subject are in Appendix I of the August 2001 edition of Washington's *Water System Design Manual*, which discusses specific technical issues associated with the approval and use of UV disinfection treatment. The summary conclusions and requirements are as follows:

- The Washington State Department of Health will require that each typical UV reactor design undergo biodosimetry-based validation testing prior to being approved for use in Washington State.
- 60 mJ/cm^2 is the minimum biodosimetry-determined equivalent fluence for UV disinfection systems to be used on groundwater systems (targets bacteria and virus inactivation).
- 40 mJ/cm^2 is the minimum biodosimetry-determined equivalent fluence for UV disinfection systems to be used on surface water systems (targets *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* inactivation, assuming that virus inactivation is accomplished in conjunction with another disinfectant).
- A minimum of 4-log (99.99 percent) inactivation of viruses is required for groundwater disinfection settings.
- Future federal rules may require a higher level of treatment than identified here.
- The quality of the raw water can greatly affect inactivation of target microorganisms with UV, and must meet specific criteria.
- Acceptable operations and maintenance procedures must be established during the design stage of UV disinfection system approval.

UV Technical Terms

fluence: A measure of the UV energy received by treated water.

mJ/cm^2: Milli-Joules per square centimeter – measure of energy applied per unit area over a specified period of time.

nanometer: One-billionth of a meter.

reactor: The hardware in a water system that exposes water to UV light.

ultraviolet: For drinking water disinfection purposes, the range of visible light with wavelength between 200 and 300 nanometers.

For more information:

Washington's Water System Design Manual:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Publications/design.htm

EPA Alternative Disinfectants and Oxidants Guidance Manual:
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/pdf/alter/chapt_8.pdf

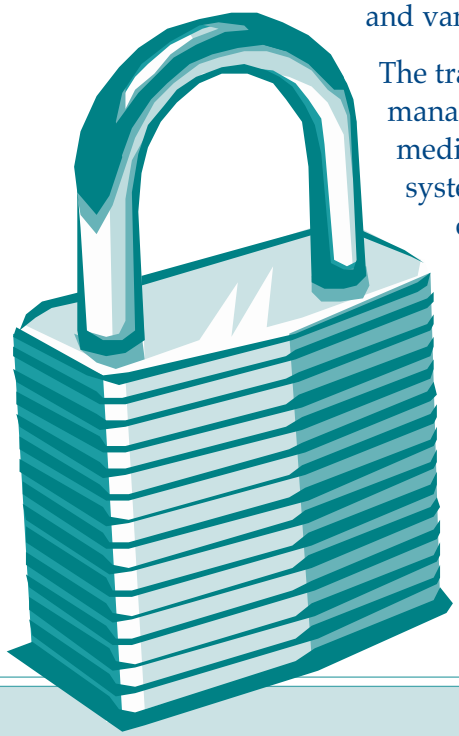
If you have questions about using UV treatment in specific water systems, contact your regional office and ask to speak with a regional engineer:

- Northwest Region
  (253) 395-6750
- Southwest Region
  (360) 664-0768
- Eastern Region
  (509) 456-3115

If you have general questions about UV treatment, contact Chris McMeen, (253) 395-6762.

Water System Security Workshops:

Preventing and Responding to Intentional Threats



During the last week of January and the first week of February, the Division of Drinking Water conducted nine workshops on water system security—three in each region—with a specific focus on terrorism, sabotage, and vandalism.

The training was aimed primarily at managers and employees of medium-sized public water systems serving 500 or more connections, plus interested staff from local health jurisdictions.

Over 600 people attended the sessions in Longview, Lacey, Bremerton, Mount Vernon, Des Moines, Puyallup, Medical Lake, Wenatchee, and Richland. There were capacity crowds at six of the workshops, which were provided free of charge and offered CEU credit to eligible attendees.

Presentations at the workshops included:

- Emergency planning
- Threats and targets
- Biological agents
- System security assessment
- Incident response
- Security measures
- Communications
- Public disclosure and other issues

This training evolved in direct response to the attacks of last September 11 and ongoing concerns about water system vulnerability to terrorist threat. Awareness of the subject matter, however, should be valuable regardless of whether any such attacks occur in the future.

A few "take home" messages from the security workshops:

- Intentional acts can bring an added layer of investigation, an expanded list of possible contaminants and threats, and greater need for good communications.
- Expect surprises.
- Intentional water contamination is possible but unlikely. Attacks on infrastructure and computer systems are also possible.
- Emergency response works best when you develop outside relationships ahead of time.
- The best plan is useless if people can't find it and don't know what's in it.
- If criminal intent is suspected, even water system employees will be potential suspects.
- When communicating with the public, be respectful and empathetic.
- Learn as much as you can from the successes and failures of others in managing emergencies.

2001 Consumer Confidence Reports Due July 1, 2002

Just a reminder that it's time to be developing Consumer Confidence Reports for 2001. The reports are required of all Group A community water systems and are due to both customers and the Department of Health no later than July 1, 2002.

A rule change on arsenic levels *(see article, page 1)* will require some modifications to CCR reporting this year. The previous standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) required an educational statement for detections between 25 to 50 ppb and a health effects statement for facilities with levels exceeding 50 ppb.

Under the new 10 ppb standard, facilities with levels between 5 and 10 ppb must provide an educational statement about arsenic, and those exceeding 10 ppb must provide a health effects statement.

Samples of standard language to include on this can be found on EPA's website listed below. The rule does allow utilities to write their own educational statement, but only in consultation with the DOH. The division is developing guidance material on this subject which should be available on our website this spring.

The mandatory health effects language for arsenic for facilities exceeding the MCL is:

"Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer."

The following are some resources that can be helpful in developing your CCR report:

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington
738 Cascade Way, Ellensburg, WA 98296
Phone: (509) 962-6326
FAX (509) 925-6859
http://www.erwow.org
Free on line computer template program to guide you through the report. CD-ROMs are $20 for members, $30 for nonmembers.

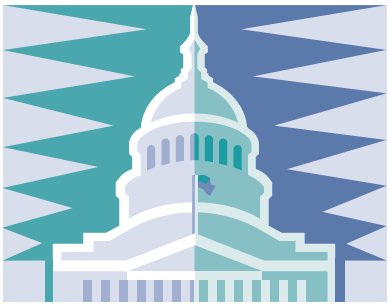
Midwest Assistance Program
PO Box 81, New Prague, MN 56071
Phone (952) 758-4334
http://www.map-inc.org/publicat.htm
Free computer template program, or a guidebook with worksheet and instructions for writing your report without the use of a computer.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.,
Washington, DC 20460
Phone 1-800-426-4791
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html
Free on line computer template program.

American Water Works Association
6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235
Phone (303) 794-7711 or 1-(800)
366-0107. FAX. (303) 794-7310
http://www.awwa.org
http://www.ccrbuilder.com
CD-ROM template for $90.

Drinking Water Week, May 5-11

The following proclamation is scheduled to be signed by Governor Gary Locke in March:



Whereas, water follows a natural cycle from earth to air to earth again; and Whereas, water is a basic and essential need of every living creature; and Whereas, our health, comfort, and standard of living depend upon a reliable supply of safe drinking water; and Whereas, the citizens of the State of Washington should have a safe and dependable supply of water both now and in the future; and Whereas, we are calling upon each citizen to help protect our source waters from pollution, practicing water conservation, and getting involved in local water issues; Now, therefore, be it resolved that by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Washington, I do hereby proclaim May 5-11, 2002, as Drinking Water Week.

New 3-year Chemical Monitoring Period Begins

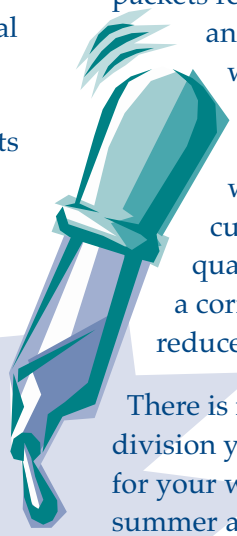
Decisions On Sampling Waivers Will Be Made Later This Year

This year marks the start of the 2002-2004 compliance period for chemical monitoring (IOC, VOC and SOC). It is also the start of a new chemical monitoring waiver period. The Division of Drinking Water may waive some sampling requirements based on water quality history and susceptibility of sources to contamination.

The division recently distributed the 2002 Water Quality Monitoring Report (WQMR) to all Group A Community and Non-Transient Non-Community water systems. The WQMR annually provides water systems with a list of monitoring requirements for the year.

The recently distributed WQMR does not yet reflect the monitoring requirements of systems that may be granted waivers for the new compliance period.

This summer the Division of Drinking Water will send out information packets regarding waiver eligibility and specific instructions on the waiver application process. After receiving those applications, the division will issue new waivers for the current compliance period to qualified systems, and will send a corrected WQMR reflecting reduced monitoring requirements.



There is no need to contact the division yet about waivers. Please wait for your waiver packet to arrive this summer and we will be glad to assist you then if you have questions about source monitoring waivers.

Initial Evaluation of Water Conservation Tax Incentive

Few utilities used or knew about the tax deduction, which began 5/10/01 and will end 6/30/03

In the 2001 legislative session, the Legislature adopted, and the Governor signed into law, a tax-incentive program for water utilities to improve water-use efficiency and promote use of reclaimed water.

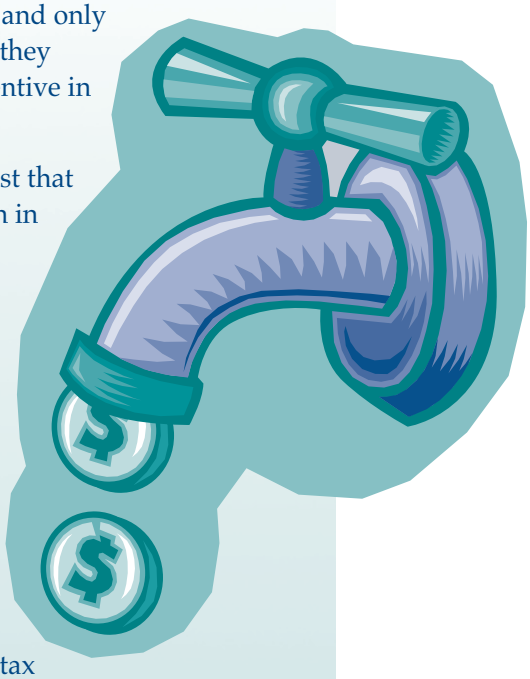
The legislation established a public utility tax deduction of 75 percent of funds spent to improve consumers' efficient use of water. A water utility that takes conservation measures, such as making low-flow showerheads or toilets available to customers, may subtract 75 percent of the cost of those measures from its gross income when calculating its public utility tax.

Last year 550 water utilities paid the tax. For each $10,000 spent on eligible conservation measures, the tax incentive would provide a savings to the utility of $377.

Water Utility Survey

The Legislature required an evaluation the long-term revenue impacts, costs, and benefits of the tax measures, and other potential incentives. As part of the evaluation process, the Department of Health contracted with Washington State University to survey 458 water utilities that paid a public utility tax in calendar year 2000. The main findings were:

- A majority of the respondents (81 percent) said they did not participate in the tax-incentive program. Most of them (67 percent) said the main reason was that they were not aware of the program.
- Respondents felt that providing financial incentives to provide assistance with leak detection/repair, repair of water mains, and replacing lost revenue from conservation would be the most effective.
- Respondents indicated that interest-free loans and direct payments were the most effective financial incentives. Low-interest loans were not considered to be an effective financial incentive.
- Respondents were not sure how effective expanding the existing program would be for their utility.
- Only 22 percent of the respondents indicated that they likely would claim the tax incentive in 2002 and only 23 percent indicated they would claim the incentive in 2003.



The survey results suggest that the program has not been in effect long enough to determine the effectiveness of the tax incentives in increasing water conservation. Only 10 utilities in the survey indicated they had claimed the deduction as of the survey date.

The survey results also suggest that the existing tax incentive could be made more effective if it were expanded from just consumer-oriented activities to include those that the utility itself can undertake, such as leak detection and repair.

Experience from other states, as well as survey results, suggest that programs other than tax incentives—such as grants and low- or no-interest loans—may be more effective in encouraging conservation. Such incentives could also be made available to small systems that do not benefit from the current tax incentive because they do not generate enough revenue to be subject to the utility tax.

Especially for Small Systems

Small Communities Initiative

Four agencies team up to help small towns meet state requirements

Small communities in Washington must meet the same public health and environmental requirements as larger cities, often without the administrative, technical, and financial capacity to effectively do so. The cumulative impact of multiple requirements can overwhelm them.

The interagency Small Communities Initiative tackles this challenge by fostering good working relationships between communities and regulators, promoting compliance with environmental and public health requirements, and supporting the economic vitality of small communities.

> ***"Rather than seeing Health and Ecology representatives as 'black hats' out to cause us grief, we now feel we have friends who are willing to work with us as we try to meet the requirements of the state as regards our water and sewer systems."***
>
> ***~ Cathlamet Mayor, Barbara West***

The initiative began in February 1999 when four state agencies—the Department of Health, the Department of Ecology, the Office of Community Development, and the Office of Trade and Economic Development—formally agreed to help small, rural communities comply with health and environmental regulations.

The initiative emphasizes regulatory flexibility, on-going partnerships, and recognition of multiple community priorities.

In the communities, agency staff act as facilitators, technical advisors, and resource brokers to help local elected officials, city staff, and citizens define, prioritize, and identify links between public health, environmental protection, and local development issues. Once everyone understands what the community faces, they can develop an action plan leading to regulatory compliance, long-term community sustainability, and economic vitality.

During the initiative's pilot phase, ending June 30, 2001, five communities completed a number of projects:

Town of Cathlamet (Wahkiakum County). Water system plan and improvements, general sewer and facilities plan, comprehensive land use planning.

City of McCleary (Grays Harbor). Sewer and facilities plan, comprehensive land use plan, water and sewer system improvement.

Curlew Water District (Ferry). Water system improvements, community and economic development with the North Ferry Enterprise Community.

Town of Lyman (Skagit). Water system plan and project report, water system improvements, comprehensive land use plan, and development regulations.

Town of Tieton and Cowiche Sewer District (Yakima). Regional wastewater treatment facilities.

Accomplishments during the pilot phase included:

- Environmental protection and public health results.
- Cost savings to communities on infrastructure projects.

- Articulated and prioritized community goals, with plans to achieve them.
- Improved relationships between communities and agencies.
- Improved interagency coordination.

Planning and decision-making for the initiative is coordinated through a steering committee with members from each participating agency:

Sue Mauermann, Ecology, Southwest Regional Office, 360-407-6307

Bill Liechty, Health, Southwest Drinking Water Operations, 360-753-5953

Stephen Buxbaum, Office of Community Development, 360-725-3005

Dick Larman, Office of Trade and Economic Development, 360-725-4057

The steering committee members expect that regional staff will be having to spend less time with communities that have had difficulties complying with regulations. They expect better understanding by communities of what is required and more compliance with regulations. In the long run, more small communities should have adequate infrastructure to protect public health and the environment.

Active projects are now being pursued in:

- **Town of Ione** (Pend Oreille County)
- **Klickitat community/Klickitat PUD** (Klickitat),
- **Town of Carbonado** (Pierce)
- **Marblemount community/Skagit PUD** (Skagit).

A June 2001 biennial report is available that summarizes the accomplishments of the initiative, evaluates the process from the pilot phase, and makes recommendations regarding broader implementation. Funding for the initiative's program manager has been secured for the 2001-2003 biennium, and the steering committee hopes to expand the initiative and continue it beyond June 2003.

For more information, contact:

Cathi Read, Small Communities Initiative Program Manager
Office of Community Development
360-725-3016
cathir@cted.wa.gov

Editor's Note: *In future issues of Water Tap we will be looking at individual projects that have been successfully completed as a result of the Small Communities Initiative.*

Update on Training for Small Water Systems

The Division of Drinking Water's Training and Outreach Section has developed a draft course outline for the first set of training courses offered to small water system operators. The one-day course focuses on a broad overview of topics operators need to be aware of to safely operate their systems. Courses are also being identified that will take a more in-depth look at priority topics. The division hopes to have a state contract in place for potential training providers by mid April.

Operators are encouraged to stayed tuned for more information on specific courses being offered by continuing to read the Water Tap. If you have general questions about training for small water system operators, please contact Paula Smith at 360/236-3114; email paula.smith@doh.wa.gov

For those of you who need to become certified, a number of trainers offer an exam review class to help you prepare for the test. You will find these courses listed in the training calendar of every Water Tap issue. If you need to know more about operator certification issues, call the Operator certification toll-free hotline, 1-800-525-2536.

Especially for Small Systems

Contract Operators List is on the Web

The Water Works Contract Operators list is now available on the Division of Drinking Water website at - http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/opcertification.htm

Contract operators serve as the certified operator for three or more water systems. They must at a minimum be certified as both a Water Distribution Manager and a Cross Connection Control Specialist. Other classifications may be needed depending upon the specific systems involved. Contract operators must be available 24-hours per day.

Most certified operators who fell under this definition were contacted and informed of the regulatory requirements. Those in compliance with the regulations are now posted on the public list.

Contract operators must provide copies of all signed operations contracts to the Department of Health Water Works Certification Program within 30 days of the effective date of the contract. These requirements also apply to mandatory operators of Satellite Management Agencies.

If you would like more information please call Tanya Mohammadi at (360) 236-3151 or (800) 525-2536, option 5.

Annual Operating Permit Fee:

Information from WFI is the Basis

Since 1993 all Group A water systems have been required to apply for and obtain an annual operating permit, the fee for which is based on the size and type of system. The Division of Drinking Water's primary source of information for fee determination is the Water Facilities Inventory (WFI) form.

Information that water systems provide through the WFI form includes the number of residential and non-residential connections and the respective populations served.

Based on the information in the WFI system, a computer program calculates the appropriate fee to charge and generates annual fee statements that are sent out to the systems.

Prior to the fee calculation, the division sends each water system a copy of its current WFI form. Water systems may update the WFI to reflect any changes since the last submittal.

Because of the close relationship between the WFI and operating permit fees, it is important to ensure the accuracy of the WFI information.

Staff in each of our regional offices can answer questions about your WFI information:

Northwest: Shasta Guinn, (253) 395-6774

Southwest: Brad Brooks, (360) 664-9280

Eastern: Karla Griffin, (509) 456-5076

There are also staff in the regional offices who can answer questions about operating permits:

Northwest: Luis Buen Abad, (253) 395-6773

Southwest: Cheri Paine, (360) 753-2884

Eastern: George Simon, (509) 456-2801

Dr. Drip

Dear Dr. Drip:

I get three copies of each Water Tap. Like most folks, I can only read one at a time. Can't you save the state some money by cleaning out your mailing list?

Sincerely, Ima Taxpare

Dear Ima:

We mail out over 10,000 copies of each issue of the Water Tap. To do this, we rely on computerized databases that the Division of Drinking Water uses for many other purposes.

There are currently four parts of the Water Tap distribution list, each with its own database:

- *Group A systems (about 4,600 total)*
- *Certified operators (4,200)*
- *Laboratories (100)*
- *Misc. interested parties (1,200)*

Some people get multiple copies because they own, operate, or work for more than one system. In those cases, we can't eliminate duplication (or even triplication) because the databases must contain unique records for each system and individual operator.

The one list we do maintain in the luxurious suites of Water Tap Central in beautiful Airdustrial Park (Tumwater) is the "miscellaneous interested parties" list. If you're on it in more than one guise, we can save the state some postage by reducing that to only one. Just tell us which identity and address you prefer, and we'll take care of it.

Fees Go Up

Fee increases proposed by the Division of Drinking Water last fall and approved by the Department of Health will be implemented on May 1, 2002. The division's last fee increase was over two years ago.

Waivers

Monitoring waiver fees will increase by 2.79 percent. This is within the cap established by Initiative 601, which is based on cost of living increases and state population growth.

Plan Reviews and Operator Certification

Fees for plan reviews, including water system plans, review of project reports, and review of construction documents, are increasing by 5.4 percent.

Water works operator certification fees for all classification levels are increasing by 17.6 percent.

The Legislature authorized the department to exceed the fiscal growth factor limit for these fees. The increases are based on an analysis of program costs.

Hourly Rate

The program's standard hourly rate has increased from $89 to $93 an hour.

The Department of Health conducted a hearing on November 13, 2001 to take public comment on the proposed increases. The modifications were adopted and filed with the Code Reviser on December 14, 2001.

The new fee schedule is available via the web at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/fee_increase

New Backflow Assemblies List is Available

The February 2002 publication *Approved Backflow Assemblies for Washington State* is now available. The division sends this publication only on request, so even if you got it in previous years, you must request a new one if you wish to receive it. Those who do get it will automatically receive any updates for the rest of the year.

You can request a copy in any of three ways:

- By email to DWINFO@doh.wa.gov
- Call Abigail Hughes at (360) 236-3164
- Call toll-free, 1-800-521-0323

Give your name, organization (if any), mailing address, Op Cert No, BAT No, or PWS ID (if applicable), and phone number.

Specify that you want the "Approved Assemblies List for 2002."

Training and Education Calendar March - June 2002

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #	Cost/CEU
March 15	Basic Distrb. Installation & Maintenance	Woodland	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
March 18-22	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
March 18-22	BAT Course and Exam	Richland	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
March 18-30	BAT Course and Exam	Vancouver	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
Mar 18-Apr 4	BAT Course and Exam	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
March 19	DWSRF/PWTF Application Workshop	Kelso/Longview	Beth Rockwell	(360) 725-5013	Free/NA
March 19	Basic Distrb. Installation & Maintenance	Woodland	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
March 20	DWSRF/PWTF Application Workshop	Fife	Beth Rockwell	(360) 725-5013	Free/NA
March 20	Basic Distrb. Installation & Maintenance	Granger	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
March 21	DWSRF/PWTF Application Workshop	Everett	Beth Rockwell	(360) 725-5013	Free/NA
March 21	Basic Distrb. Installation & Maintenance	Ritzville	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
March 26	Basic Distrb. Installation & Maintenance	Wenatchee	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
March 26-28	Water/Wastewater Ops Workshop (WOW)	Pasco	WETRC	(253) 288-3369	$105/1.8
March 27	Basic Distrb. Installation & Maintenance	Airway Hts	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
March 27-28	Sanitary Survey Technical Training Course	Ellensburg	Dennis Campbell	(360) 236-3158	Call/Call
April 2-4	Pump Operation & Maintenance	Richland	WETRC	800-562-0858	$275/2.1
April 2-4	WW Collection System Op & Maint.	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$285/2.1
April 2-5	Backflow Assembly Tester Exam Review	Yakima	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$400/3.0
April 3	Basic Water Works for Office Staff (AWWA)	Bellevue	Laura Szentes	(425) 868-1144	$45/0.6
April 6	BAT Exam only	Vancouver	WETRC	800-562-0858	$180/NA
April 8-11	BAT Refresher	Vancouver	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
April 9	Water Audits and Leak Detection	Moses Lake	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
April 9-11	Basic Electrical	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$275/2.1
April 10	Pipe Utility Locating (AWWA)	Spokane	Sharron Kimball	(509) 924-3655	$15/0.4
April 10	Water Audits and Leak Detection	Walla Walla	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
April 10-12	Cross Connct Control Speclst Exam Rvw	Wenatchee	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$220/2.1
April 13	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Vancouver	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA
April 16	Water Meters	Chehalis	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.6
April 16-17	Process Control & Instrumentation	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$225/1.4
April 16-18	Basic Water Works	Yakima	WETRC	800-562-0858	$275/2.1
April 16-24	BAT Refresher	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
April 17	Water Meters	Shelton	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.6
April 17-19	Water Distrib Certification Exam Review	Richland	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$220/2.2
April 18	Water Meters	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.6
April 19	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Pract Procd	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$145/0.7
April 22-26	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
April 23	Water Meters	Moses Lake	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.6
April 23-25	Basic Water Works	Everett	WETRC	800-562-0858	$275/2.1
April 23-25	Water Distrib Certification Exam Review	Tacoma	WETRC	800-562-0858	$265/2.1
April 24	Water Meters	Pullman	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.6
April 25	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA

Training and Education Calendar (continued)

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #	Cost/CEU
April 29-30	BAT Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
May 2002	Fire Hydrant Operation and Maintenance	TBD	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
May 1	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA
May 2-4	PNWS Amer Water Wrks Assc Annl Conf	Eugene, OR	Judy Gryco	877-767-2992	Call
May 6-9	Backflow Assembly Tester Exam Review	Vancouver	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$400/3.0
May 7-8	Competent Person and Cave-in Protection	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$210/1.4
May 7-8	BAT Refresher	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
May 7-9	Water Distrib Certification Exam Review	Yakima	WETRC	800-562-0858	$265/2.1
May 8-10	Cross Connct Control Speclst Exam Rvw	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$220/ 2.1
May 8-10	WSEHA Annual Education Conference	Olympia	Kerri Wagner	(360) 756-2040	Call
May 9	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA
May 13-17	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
May 14-15	BAT Refresher	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
May 14-16	Water Distrib Certification Exam Review	Everett	WETRC	800-562-0858	$265/2.1
May 16	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA
May 20-21	BAT Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
May 21-23	Basic Electrical	Yakima	WETRC	800-562-0858	$275/2.1
May 22	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA
May 22-24	Water Distrib Certification Exam Review	Vancouver	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$220/ 2.2
May 23-24	WTPO and BTO Certification Review	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$180/1.4
May 31	BAT Exam only	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$180/NA
June 3-26	BAT Course and Exam	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
June 4	Small Water System Management Plans	Yakima	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
June 4-6	Pump Operation and Maintenance	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$275/2.1
June 5	Small Water System Management Plans	Spokane	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
June 5-6	Process Control and Instrumentation	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$225/1.4
June 7	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Pract Procd	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$145/0.7
June 10-14	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
June 11	Small Water System Management Plans	Oak Harbor	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
June 12	Small Water System Management Plans	King County	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
June 14	Cross Connection Program Review	Airway Hts	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	$60/0.5
June 17-21	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$695/3.0
June 19	Small Water System Management Plans	Kelso	ERWOW	(509) 962-6326	Free/0.5
June 24-25	BAT Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$205/1.5
June 25-27	WW Collection System Op & Maintenance	Yakima	WETRC	800-562-0858	$285/2.1
June 26	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	$105/NA

Additional Training Links:

ERWOW Website - http://www.ERWOW.org
WETRC Website - http://www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wetrc
AWWA Pacific NW Section - http://www.pnws-awwa.org/index.cfm

For the complete Training Calendar visit the Drinking Water Homepage and click on Training - www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

Transporting Water by Truck

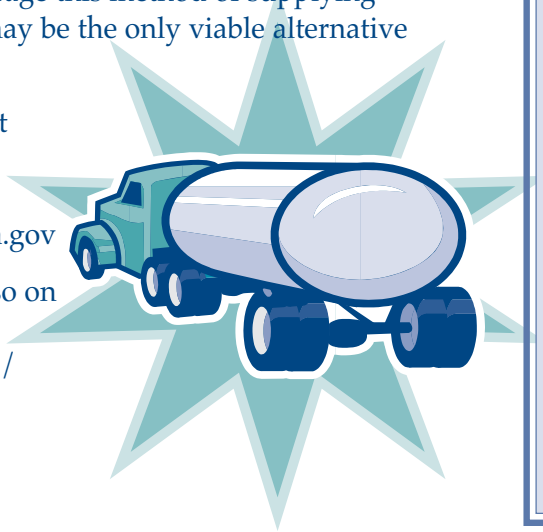
Revised Brochure is Available

The Division of Drinking Water has recently revised a brochure entitled *Guidelines: Truck Transportation, Emergency Water Supply for Public Use.*

These guidelines are for water system utilities, companies, or associations that need to deliver drinkable water to the public during emergencies. Although the Department of Health does not encourage this method of supplying water, trucked water may be the only viable alternative in some situations.

To order a copy, contact Abigail Hughes:
(360) 236-3164
abigail.hughes@doh.wa.gov

The brochure text is also on the web at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Publications/Truck_Transport.htm



In This Issue

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The Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water, publishes the Water Tap to provide information to water system owners, water works operators, and others interested in drinking water. Comments and questions are welcome.

Past issues are available by writing to the editor, the Water Tap, Division of Drinking Water, PO Box 47828, Olympia, WA 98504-7828, or email your request to steve.kelso@doh.wa.gov. Past issues are also available on the web at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

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